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VIVA NATURALS INC.; VIVA LABS INC.

**FILED**  
ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUG 06 2019

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
By [Signature] Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC., a California non-profit  
corporation**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**VIVA NATURALS INC.; VIVA LABS  
INC.; and DOES 1-100**

**Defendants.**

CASE NO. RG18932203

**STIPULATED CONSENT  
JUDGMENT**

Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*

Action Filed: December 13, 2018

Trial Date: None set

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 On December 13, 2018, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), a non-profit corporation, as a private enforcer and in the public interest, initiated this action by filing a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties (the "Complaint") pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"), against Viva Naturals Inc. and Viva Labs Inc. (collectively "Viva

1 Naturals”), and Does 1-100. In this action, ERC alleges that one of the products manufactured,  
2 distributed, or sold by Viva Naturals contains cadmium, a chemical listed under Proposition 65  
3 as a carcinogen and reproductive toxin, and exposes consumers to this chemical at a level  
4 requiring a Proposition 65 warning. This product (hereinafter referred to as the “Covered  
5 Product”) is: Viva Naturals Ground Flaxseed Organic.

6       **1.2**     ERC and Viva Naturals are hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” or  
7 collectively as the “Parties.”

8       **1.3**     ERC is a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other  
9 causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of  
10 hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees,  
11 and encouraging corporate responsibility.

12       **1.4**     For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Parties agree that each defendant is a  
13 business entity each of which has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action,  
14 and qualifies as a “person in the course of doing business” within the meaning of Proposition 65.  
15 Viva Naturals manufactures, distributes, and/or sells the Covered Product.

16       **1.5**     The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC’s Notice of Violation  
17 dated June 19, 2018 that was served on the California Attorney General, other public enforcers,  
18 and Viva Naturals (“Notice”). A true and correct copy of the Notice dated June 19, 2018 is  
19 attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference. More than 60 days have passed  
20 since the Notice was served on the Attorney General, public enforcers, and Viva Naturals and  
21 no designated governmental entity has filed a complaint against Viva Naturals with regard to  
22 the Covered Product or the alleged violations.

23       **1.6**     ERC’s Notice and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Product exposes  
24 persons in California to cadmium without first providing clear and reasonable warnings in  
25 violation of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6. Viva Naturals denies all  
26 material allegations contained in the Notice and Complaint.

27       **1.7**     The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle,  
28 compromise, and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation.

1 Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute  
2 or be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers,  
3 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions,  
4 franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact,  
5 issue of law, or violation of law.

6 **1.8** Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall  
7 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in any  
8 current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.

9 **1.9** The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is the date on which it is entered as  
10 a Judgment by this Court.

## 11 **2. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become  
13 necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter  
14 jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint, personal jurisdiction  
15 over Viva Naturals as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda  
16 County, and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final  
17 resolution of all claims up through and including the Effective Date which were or could have  
18 been asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notice and Complaint.

## 19 **3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, REFORMULATION, TESTING AND WARNINGS**

20 **3.1** Beginning on the Effective Date, Viva Naturals shall be permanently enjoined  
21 from manufacturing for sale in the State of California, "Distributing into the State of  
22 California," or directly selling in the State of California, any Covered Product which exposes a  
23 person to a "Daily Cadmium Exposure Level" of more than 4.1 micrograms of cadmium per  
24 day unless it meets the warning requirements under Section 3.2.

25 **3.1.1** As used in this Consent Judgment, the term "Distributing into the State  
26 of California" shall mean to directly ship a Covered Product into California for sale in  
27 California or to sell a Covered Product to a distributor that Viva Naturals knows or has reason  
28 to know will sell the Covered Product in California.

1           **3.1.2** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Cadmium Exposure  
2 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:  
3 micrograms of cadmium per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the  
4 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings  
5 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on  
6 the label), which equals micrograms of cadmium exposure per day. If the label contains no  
7 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

8           **3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings**

9           If Viva Naturals is required to provide a warning pursuant to Section 3.1, one of the  
10 following warnings must be utilized (“Warning”):

11           **OPTION 1:**

12           **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including cadmium  
13 which is [are] known to the State of California to cause [cancer and] birth defects or other  
14 reproductive harm. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food).

15           For Option 1, Viva Naturals shall use the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning if Viva  
16 Naturals has reason to believe that a Proposition 65 chemical is present which may require a  
17 cancer warning.

18           or

19           **OPTION 2:**

20           Viva Naturals may use one of the following short form Warnings, as applicable:

21           ⚠ **WARNING :** Cancer – [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

22           ⚠ **WARNING :** Reproductive Harm - [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

23           ⚠ **WARNING :** Cancer and Reproductive Harm - [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)

24           For Option 2, the entire Warning must be in a type size no smaller than the largest type  
25 size used for other consumer information on the product. In no case shall the Warning appear in a  
26 type size smaller than 6-point type. Further, for Option 2, a symbol consisting of a black  
27 exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline shall be placed to the  
28 left of the text of the Warning, in a size no smaller than the height of the word “WARNING.”  
Where the sign, label or shelf tag for the product is not printed using the color yellow, the symbol



1 may be printed in black and white.

2       Regardless of whether Option 1 or Option 2 is used, the Warning shall be securely affixed to or  
3 printed upon the container or label of each Covered Product. If the Warning is provided on the  
4 label, it must be set off from other surrounding information and enclosed in a box. In addition,  
5 for any Covered Product sold over the internet, the Warning shall appear on the checkout page  
6 when a California delivery address is indicated for any purchase of the Covered Product or  
7 shall be provided via a clearly marked hyperlink to the Warning using the word “**WARNING**”  
8 (in all capital and bold letters) on the product display page. An asterisk or other identifying  
9 method must be utilized to identify which product on the checkout page is subject to the  
10 Warning.

11       The Warning shall be at least the same size as the largest of any other health or safety  
12 warnings also appearing on its website or on the label or container of Viva Naturals’ product  
13 packaging and the word “**WARNING**” shall be in all capital letters and in bold print. No  
14 statements intended to or likely to have the effect of diminishing the impact of, or reducing the  
15 clarity of, the Warning on the average lay person shall accompany the Warning. Further, no  
16 statements may accompany the Warning that state or imply that the source of the listed chemical  
17 has an impact on or results in a less harmful effect of the listed chemical.

18       Viva Naturals must display the above Warning with such conspicuousness, as compared  
19 with other words, statements or designs on the label or container, or on its website, if applicable, to  
20 render the Warning likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary  
21 conditions of purchase or use of the product.

### 22       **3.3 Conforming Covered Product**

23       A Conforming Covered Product is a Covered Product for which the “Daily Cadmium  
24 Exposure Level” is no greater than 4.1 micrograms of cadmium per day as determined by the  
25 quality control methodology described in Section 3.4.

### 26       **3.4 Testing and Quality Control Methodology**

27       **3.4.1** Beginning within one year of the Effective Date, Viva Naturals shall  
28 arrange for cadmium testing of the Covered Product at least once a year for a minimum of five

1 consecutive years by arranging for testing of five randomly selected samples of the Covered  
2 Product, in the form intended for sale to the end-user, which Viva Naturals intends to sell or is  
3 manufacturing for sale in California, directly selling to a consumer in California or  
4 "Distributing into the State of California." If tests conducted pursuant to this Section  
5 demonstrate that no Warning is required for the Covered Product during each of five  
6 consecutive years, then the testing requirements of this Section will no longer be required as to  
7 the Covered Product. However, if during or after the five-year testing period, Viva Naturals  
8 changes ingredient suppliers for the Covered Product and/or reformulates the Covered Product,  
9 Viva Naturals shall test the Covered Product annually for at least three (3) consecutive years  
10 after such change is made.

11           **3.4.2** For purposes of measuring the "Daily Cadmium Exposure Level," the  
12 highest cadmium detection result of the five (5) randomly selected samples of the Covered  
13 Product will be controlling.

14           **3.4.3** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed using a  
15 laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate  
16 for the method used, including limit of detection, qualification, accuracy, and precision that  
17 meets the following criteria: Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry ("ICP-MS")  
18 achieving a limit of quantification of less than or equal to 0.010 mg/kg.

19           **3.4.4** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by an  
20 independent third party laboratory certified by the California Environmental Laboratory  
21 Accreditation Program or an independent third-party laboratory that is registered with the  
22 United States Food & Drug Administration.

23           **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Viva Naturals' ability to  
24 conduct, or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Product, including the  
25 raw materials used in their manufacture.

26           **3.4.6** Within thirty (30) days of ERC's written request, Viva Naturals shall  
27 deliver lab reports obtained pursuant to Section 3.4 to ERC. Viva Naturals shall retain all test  
28 results and documentation for a period of five years from the date of each test.

1           **3.4.7** The testing requirements under this Section 3.4 do not apply to any  
2 Covered Product for which Viva Naturals has provided the Warning specified in Section 3.2  
3 continuously and uninterrupted after the Effective Date; however, in the event Viva Naturals  
4 ceases to provide the Warning specified in Section 3.2, Viva Naturals shall be required to  
5 comply with the testing requirements of this section beginning immediately after the date the  
6 Warning ceases to be provided or one year after the Effective Date, whichever date is later.

7       **4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

8           **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement payments,  
9 attorney's fees, and costs, Viva Naturals shall make a total payment of \$65,000.00 ("Total  
10 Settlement Amount") to ERC in three periodic payments (the "Periodic Payments") according  
11 to the following payment schedule ("Due Dates"):

- 12           • Payment 1 -- \$32,500.00 within 5 days of the Effective Date
- 13           • Payment 2 -- \$16,250.00 within 35 days of the Effective Date
- 14           • Payment 3 -- \$16,250.00 within 65 days of the Effective Date

15       Viva Naturals shall make these payment by wire transfer to ERC's account, for which  
16 ERC will give Viva Naturals the necessary account information. The Total Settlement Amount  
17 shall be apportioned as follows:

18           **4.2** \$7,701.00 shall be considered a civil penalty pursuant to California Health and  
19 Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). ERC shall remit 75% (\$5,775.75) of the civil penalty to the  
20 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") for deposit in the Safe  
21 Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund in accordance with California Health and Safety  
22 Code section 25249.12(c). ERC will retain the remaining 25% (\$1,925.25) of the civil penalty.

23           **4.3** \$3,866.75 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable  
24 costs incurred in bringing this action.

25           **4.4** \$5,775.71 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment  
26 ("ASP"), pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, sections 3203, subdivision (d) and  
27 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities that address the same public harm as allegedly  
28 caused by Viva Naturals in this matter. These activities are detailed below and support ERC's

1 overarching goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in dietary  
2 supplement products in California. ERC's activities have had, and will continue to have, a direct  
3 and primary effect within the State of California because California consumers will be benefitted  
4 by the reduction and/or elimination of exposure to cadmium in dietary supplements and/or by  
5 providing clear and reasonable warnings to California consumers prior to ingestion of the  
6 products.

7       Based on a review of past years' actual budgets, ERC is providing the following list of  
8 activities ERC engages in to protect California consumers through Proposition 65 citizen  
9 enforcement, along with a breakdown of how ASP funds will be utilized to facilitate those  
10 activities: (1) ENFORCEMENT (65-80%): obtaining, shipping, analyzing, and testing dietary  
11 supplement products that may contain cadmium and are sold to California consumers. This  
12 work includes continued monitoring and enforcement of past consent judgments and  
13 settlements to ensure companies are in compliance with their obligations thereunder, with a  
14 specific focus on those judgments and settlements concerning cadmium. This work also  
15 includes investigation of new companies that ERC does not obtain any recovery through  
16 settlement or judgment; (2) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (10-20%):  
17 maintaining ERC's Voluntary Compliance Program by acquiring products from companies,  
18 developing and maintaining a case file, testing products from these companies, providing the  
19 test results and supporting documentation to the companies, and offering guidance in warning  
20 or implementing a self-testing program for cadmium in dietary supplement products; and (3)  
21 "GOT LEAD" PROGRAM (up to 5%): maintaining ERC's "Got Lead?" Program which  
22 reduces the numbers of contaminated products that reach California consumers by providing  
23 access to free testing for lead in dietary supplement products (Products submitted to the  
24 program are screened for ingredients which are suspected to be contaminated, and then may be  
25 purchased by ERC, catalogued, sent to a qualified laboratory for testing, and the results shared  
26 with the consumer that submitted the product).

27       ERC shall be fully accountable in that it will maintain adequate records to document and  
28 will be able to demonstrate how the ASP funds will be spent and can assure that the funds are

1 being spent only for the proper, designated purposes described in this Consent Judgment. ERC  
2 shall provide the Attorney General, within thirty days of any request, copies of documentation  
3 demonstrating how such funds have been spent.

4       **4.5**     \$15,255.00 shall be distributed to Michael Freund as reimbursement of ERC's  
5 attorney's fees, \$2,827.50 shall be distributed to Ryan Hoffman as reimbursement of ERC's  
6 attorney's fees, while \$29,574.04 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-house legal fees. Except  
7 as explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and costs.

8       **4.6**     In the event that Viva Naturals fails to remit the Periodic Payments owed  
9 pursuant to Section 4.1 of this Consent Judgment on or before the applicable Due Date, Viva  
10 Naturals shall be deemed to be in material breach of its obligations under this Consent  
11 Judgment. ERC shall provide written notice of the delinquency to Viva Naturals via electronic  
12 mail. If Viva Naturals fails to deliver the delinquent payment within five (5) days from the  
13 written notice, the Total Settlement Amount, less any amounts previously paid pursuant to  
14 Section 4.1, shall immediately be due and owing and shall accrue interest at the statutory  
15 judgment interest rate provided in the California Code of Civil Procedure section 685.010.  
16 Additionally, Viva Naturals agrees to pay ERC's reasonable attorney's fees and costs for any  
17 efforts to collect the payment due under this Consent Judgment.

## 18     **5.     MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

19       **5.1**     This Consent Judgment may be modified only as to injunctive terms (i) by  
20 written stipulation of the Parties and upon entry by the Court of a modified consent judgment or  
21 (ii) by motion of either Party pursuant to Section 5.3 or 5.4 and upon entry by the Court of a  
22 modified consent judgment.

23       **5.2**     If Viva Naturals seeks to modify this Consent Judgment under Section 5.1, then  
24 Viva Naturals must provide written notice to ERC of its intent ("Notice of Intent"). If ERC  
25 seeks to meet and confer regarding the proposed modification in the Notice of Intent, then ERC  
26 must provide written notice to Viva Naturals within thirty (30) days of receiving the Notice of  
27 Intent. If ERC notifies Viva Naturals in a timely manner of ERC's intent to meet and confer,  
28 then the Parties shall meet and confer in good faith as required in this Section. The Parties

1 shall meet in person or via telephone within thirty (30) days of ERC's notification of its intent  
2 to meet and confer. Within thirty (30) days of such meeting, if ERC disputes the proposed  
3 modification, ERC shall provide to Viva Naturals a written basis for its position. The Parties  
4 shall continue to meet and confer for an additional thirty (30) days in an effort to resolve any  
5 remaining disputes. Should it become necessary, the Parties may agree in writing to different  
6 deadlines for the meet-and-confer period.

7 **5.3** In the event that Viva Naturals initiates or otherwise requests a modification  
8 under Section 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to a joint motion or application for a  
9 modification of the Consent Judgment, Viva Naturals shall reimburse ERC its costs and  
10 reasonable attorney's fees for the time spent in the meet-and-confer process and filing and  
11 arguing the motion or application.

12 **5.4** Where the meet-and-confer process does not lead to a joint motion or  
13 application in support of a modification of the Consent Judgment, then either Party may seek  
14 judicial relief on its own. In any such contested court proceeding, either party may seek costs  
15 and attorneys' fees incurred in opposing the motion.

16 **6. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT**  
17 **JUDGMENT**

18 **6.1** This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify, or terminate  
19 this Consent Judgment.

20 **6.2** If ERC alleges that the Covered Product fails to qualify as a Conforming  
21 Covered Product (for which ERC alleges that no Warning has been provided), then ERC shall  
22 inform Viva Naturals in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results, including information  
23 sufficient to permit Viva Naturals to identify the Covered Product at issue. Viva Naturals shall,  
24 within thirty (30) days following such notice, provide ERC with testing information, from an  
25 independent third-party laboratory meeting the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4,  
26 demonstrating Viva Naturals' compliance with the Consent Judgment. The Parties shall first  
27 attempt to resolve the matter prior to ERC taking any further legal action.

28 ///



1     **7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

2             This Consent Judgment may apply to, be binding upon, and benefit the Parties and their  
3     respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries,  
4     divisions, franchisees, licensees, customers (excluding private labelers), distributors, wholesalers,  
5     retailers, predecessors, successors, and assigns. This Consent Judgment shall have no  
6     application to any Covered Product which is distributed or sold exclusively outside the State of  
7     California and which is not used by California consumers.

8     **8. BINDING EFFECT, CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

9             **8.1**         This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC,  
10     on behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Viva Naturals and its respective officers,  
11     directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers,  
12     franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Viva Naturals),  
13     distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and all other upstream and downstream entities in the  
14     distribution chain of the Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any  
15     of them (collectively, "Released Parties"). ERC, on behalf of itself and in the public interest,  
16     hereby fully releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions,  
17     causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs, and expenses  
18     asserted, or that could have been asserted from the handling, use, or consumption of the  
19     Covered Product, as to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations  
20     arising from the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings on the Covered Product regarding  
21     cadmium up to and including the Effective Date.

22             **8.2**         ERC on its own behalf only, and Viva Naturals on its own behalf only,  
23     further waive and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or  
24     statements made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition  
25     65 in connection with the Notice and Complaint up through and including the Effective Date,  
26     provided, however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party's right to seek to  
27     enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment.

28             **8.3**         It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts

1 alleged in the Notice and Complaint, and relating to the Covered Product, will develop or be  
2 discovered. ERC on behalf of itself only, and Viva Naturals on behalf of itself only,  
3 acknowledge that this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such  
4 claims up through and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore.  
5 ERC and Viva Naturals acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 above  
6 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to  
7 any such unknown claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

8 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE  
9 CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER  
10 FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF  
11 KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS  
OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

12 ERC on behalf of itself only, and Viva Naturals on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and  
13 understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code  
14 section 1542.

15 **8.4** Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to  
16 constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by any releasee regarding alleged exposures to  
17 cadmium in the Covered Product as set forth in the Notice and Complaint.

18 **8.5** ERC and its counsel warrant that they do not represent or intend to represent any  
19 other person who may have an actual or potential claim against Viva Naturals and do not know  
20 of any person that intends to bring such claims. ERC and its counsel further warrant that they  
21 will not directly or indirectly encourage and/or solicit any third party to institute such a  
22 proceeding or make such claims against Viva Naturals.

23 **8.6** Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or  
24 environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Viva  
25 Naturals' products other than the Covered Product.

## 26 **9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS**

27 In the event that any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment are held by a court to be  
28 unenforceable, the validity of the remaining enforceable provisions shall not be adversely affected.

1     **10. GOVERNING LAW**

2             The terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by and construed in  
3 accordance with the laws of the State of California.

4     **11. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

5             All notices required to be given to either Party to this Consent Judgment by the other shall  
6 be in writing and sent to the following agents listed below via first-class mail. Courtesy copies via  
7 email may also be sent.

8     **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.:**

9 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director, Environmental Research Center  
10 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400  
11 San Diego, CA 92108  
12 Ph: (619) 500-3090  
13 Email: chris\_erc501c3@yahoo.com

14 With a copy to:  
15 Michael Freund  
16 Michael Freund & Associates  
17 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105  
18 Berkeley, CA 94704  
19 Ph: (510) 540-1992  
20 Fax: (510) 540-5543

21     **VIVA NATURALS INC.; VIVA LABS INC.**

22 Husayn Remtulla, CEO  
23 100 Sheppard Ave East, Suite 700  
24 North York, Ontario, M2N 6N5  
25 Canada

26 With a copy to:  
27 Melissa A. Jones  
28 Stoel Rives LLP  
500 Capitol Mall, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 319-4649  
Email: majones@stoel.com

1     **12. COURT APPROVAL**

2             **12.1** Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by the Parties, ERC shall notice a  
3 Motion for Court Approval. The Parties shall use their best efforts to support entry of this  
4 Consent Judgment.

5             **12.2** If the California Attorney General objects to any term in this Consent Judgment,  
6 the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the concern in a timely manner, and if possible  
7 prior to the hearing on the motion.

8             **12.3** If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be  
9 void and have no force or effect.

10    **13. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS**

11             This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be  
12 deemed to constitute one document. A facsimile or .pdf signature shall be construed to be as valid  
13 as the original signature.

14    **14. DRAFTING**

15             The terms of this Consent Judgment have been reviewed by the respective counsel for each  
16 Party prior to its signing, and each Party has had an opportunity to fully discuss the terms and  
17 conditions with legal counsel. The Parties agree that, in any subsequent interpretation and  
18 construction of this Consent Judgment, no inference, assumption, or presumption shall be drawn,  
19 and no provision of this Consent Judgment shall be construed against any Party, based on the fact  
20 that one of the Parties and/or one of the Parties' legal counsel prepared and/or drafted all or any  
21 portion of the Consent Judgment. It is conclusively presumed that all of the Parties participated  
22 equally in the preparation and drafting of this Consent Judgment.

23    **15. GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES**

24             If a dispute arises with respect to either Party's compliance with the terms of this Consent  
25 Judgment entered by the Court, the Parties shall meet and confer in person, by telephone, and/or in  
26 writing and endeavor to resolve the dispute in an amicable manner. No action or motion may be  
27 filed in the absence of such a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute beforehand.

28    ///

1     **16. ENFORCEMENT**

2             ERC may, by motion or order to show cause before the Superior Court of Alameda  
3 County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. In any action  
4 brought by ERC to enforce this Consent Judgment, ERC may seek whatever fines, costs,  
5 penalties, or remedies as are provided by law for failure to comply with the Consent Judgment.  
6 To the extent the failure to comply with the Consent Judgment constitutes a violation of  
7 Proposition 65 or other laws, ERC shall not be limited to enforcement of this Consent Judgment,  
8 but may seek in another action whatever fines, costs, penalties, or remedies as are provided by  
9 law for failure to comply with Proposition 65 or other laws.

10    **17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION**

11            **17.1** This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and  
12 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter herein, and any and all  
13 prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings related hereto. No  
14 representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have  
15 been made by any Party. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, unless specifically referred to  
16 herein, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any Party.

17            **17.2** Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully  
18 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment.

19    **18. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF**  
20    **CONSENT JUDGMENT**

21            This Consent Judgment has come before the Court upon the request of the Parties. The  
22 Parties request the Court to fully review this Consent Judgment and, being fully informed  
23 regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

24            (1) Find that the terms and provisions of this Consent Judgment represent a fair and  
25 equitable settlement of all matters raised by the allegations of the Complaint that the matter has  
26 been diligently prosecuted, and that the public interest is served by such settlement; and

27            (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section  
28 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED:


2  
3 Dated: 5/1/ 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC.

4  
5 By:   
6 Chris Heston, Executive Director

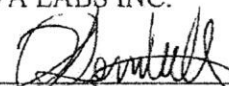
7 Dated: 5/2/ 2019

VIVA NATURALS, INC.;

8  
9   
10 By: Husayn Remtulla  
11 Its: CEO

12 Dated: 5/2/ 2019

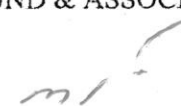
VIVA LABS INC.

13  
14   
15 By: Husayn Remtulla  
16 Its: CEO

17 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

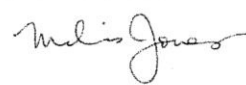
18 Dated: 5/3/ 2019

MICHAEL FREUND & ASSOCIATES

19 By:   
20 Michael Freund  
21 Attorney for Plaintiff Environmental  
22 Research Center, Inc.

23 Dated: May 2 2019

STOEL RIVES LLP

24 By:   
25 Melissa A. Jones  
26 Attorney for Defendants Viva Naturals  
27 Inc. and Viva Labs Inc.  
28



**ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

Based upon the Parties' Stipulation, and good cause appearing, this Consent Judgment is approved and Judgment is hereby entered according to its terms.

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.

Dated: August 6, 2019

Paul D. Hubert  
Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT A



## Environmental Research Center

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92108  
619-500-3090

June 19, 2018

### NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 *ET SEQ.* (PROPOSITION 65)

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the Executive Director of Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"). ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.

ERC has identified violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), which is codified at California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*, with respect to the products identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violators identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, ERC intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

**General Information about Proposition 65.** A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

**Alleged Violators.** The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

**Viva Naturals Inc.**  
**Viva Labs Inc.**

**Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals.** The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemicals in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

1. Viva Naturals Psyllium Husk Powder Organic - Lead
2. Viva Naturals Royal Quinoa Organic - Lead
3. Viva Naturals Goji Berries Organic- Lead
4. Viva Naturals Ground Flaxseed Organic – Cadmium

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer.

June 19, 2018

Page 2

Cadmium was officially listed as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity and male reproductive toxicity on May 1, 1997, while cadmium and cadmium compounds were listed as chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1987.

It should be noted that ERC may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations and result in subsequent notices of violations.

**Route of Exposure.** The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion.

**Approximate Time Period of Violations.** Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least June 19, 2015, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons ingesting these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to these chemicals.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violator to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to all persons located in California who purchased the above products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to ERC at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,



---

Chris Heptinstall  
Executive Director  
Environmental Research Center

Attachments

- Certificate of Merit
- Certificate of Service
- OEHHA Summary (to Viva Naturals Inc., Viva Labs Inc., and its Registered Agent for Service of Process only)
- Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

**Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Viva Naturals Inc. and Viva Labs Inc.**

I, Chris Heptinstall, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am the Executive Director for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, and on other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged Violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.



Dated: June 19, 2018

---

Chris Heptinstall

June 19, 2018

Page 4

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO 27 CCR § 25903**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States and over the age of 18 years of age. My business address is 306 Joy Street, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

On June 19, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; "THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY"** on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below and depositing it in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
228 Park Avenue S, Suite 2400  
New York, NY 10003

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
228 Park Avenue S, Suite 2400  
New York, NY 10003

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
100 Sheppard Ave East, Suite 700  
North York, ON M2N 6N5  
Canada

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
100 Sheppard Ave East, Suite 700  
North York, ON M2N 6N5  
Canada

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
2701 Stanley Gault Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40223

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
2701 Stanley Gault Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40223

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
1200 Worldwide Blvd  
Hebron KY 41048

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
1200 Worldwide Blvd  
Hebron KY 41048

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
1155 Worldwide Blvd  
Hebron KY 41048

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
1155 Worldwide Blvd  
Hebron KY 41048

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
200 Yorkland Blvd, Suite 720  
North York, ON M2J 5C1  
Canada

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
200 Yorkland Blvd, Suite 720  
North York, ON M2J 5C1  
Canada

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
80 Internationale Blvd  
Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
80 Internationale Blvd  
Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Incorp Services Inc.  
(Registered Agent for Viva Labs Inc.)  
2701 Stanley Gault Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40223

Current President or CEO  
Viva Labs Inc.  
616 Corporate Way, Ste 2, #3024  
Valley Cottage, NY 10985



June 19, 2018

Page 5

Current President or CEO  
Viva Naturals Inc.  
616 Corporate Way, Ste 2, #3024  
Valley Cottage, NY 10985

On June 19, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)(1)** were served on the following party when a true and correct copy thereof was uploaded on the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice> :

Office of the California Attorney General  
Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000  
Post Office Box 70550  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On June 19, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was sent via electronic mail to each of the parties listed below:

Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney  
Contra Costa County  
900 Ward Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
[sgrassini@contracostada.org](mailto:sgrassini@contracostada.org)

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator  
Lassen County  
220 S. Lassen Street  
Susanville, CA 96130  
[mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us](mailto:mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us)

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney  
Monterey County  
1200 Aguajito Road  
Monterey, CA 93940  
[Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us)

Allison Haley, District Attorney  
Napa County  
1127 First Street, Suite C  
Napa, CA 94559  
[CEPD@countyofnapa.org](mailto:CEPD@countyofnapa.org)

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
3072 Orange Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
[Prop65@rivcoda.org](mailto:Prop65@rivcoda.org)

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney  
Sacramento County  
901 G Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[Prop65@sacda.org](mailto:Prop65@sacda.org)

Kathryn L. Turner, Chief Deputy City Attorney  
San Diego City Attorney  
1200 Third Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[CityAttyCrimProp65@sandiego.gov](mailto:CityAttyCrimProp65@sandiego.gov)

Gregory Alker, Assistant District Attorney  
San Francisco County  
732 Brannan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
[gregory.alker@sfgov.org](mailto:gregory.alker@sfgov.org)

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202  
Stockton, CA 95202  
[DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org](mailto:DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org)

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney  
San Luis Obispo County  
County Government Center Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
[edobroth@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:edobroth@co.slo.ca.us)

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney  
Santa Barbara County  
1112 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
[DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

June 19, 2018

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Yen Dang, Supervising Deputy District Attorney  
Santa Clara County  
70 W Hedding St  
San Jose, CA 95110  
EPU@da.sccgov.org

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney  
Santa Cruz County  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney  
Sonoma County  
600 Administration Dr  
Sonoma, CA 95403  
jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

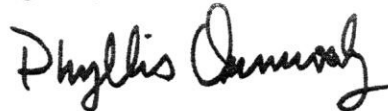
Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney  
Tulare County  
221 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 95370  
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney  
Ventura County  
800 S Victoria Ave  
Ventura, CA 93009  
daspecialops@ventura.org

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney  
Yolo County  
301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
cfepd@yolocounty.org

On June 19, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents:  
**NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.;**  
**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto, and depositing it with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on June 19, 2018, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.



Phyllis Dunwoody

**Service List**

District Attorney, Alameda  
County  
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900  
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney, Alpine  
County  
P.O. Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador  
County  
708 Court Street, Suite 202  
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte  
County  
25 County Center Drive, Suite  
245  
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Calaveras  
County  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney, Colusa  
County  
346 Fifth Street Suite 101  
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte  
County  
450 H Street, Room 171  
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado  
County  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno  
County  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn  
County  
Post Office Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt  
County  
825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial  
County  
940 West Main Street, Ste 102  
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Inyo County  
P.O. Drawer D  
Independence, CA 93526

District Attorney, Kern County  
1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings  
County  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County  
255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Los Angeles  
County  
Hall of Justice  
211 West Temple St., Ste 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera  
County  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney, Marin  
County  
3501 Civic Center Drive,  
Room 130  
San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mariposa  
County  
Post Office Box 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney, Mendocino  
County  
Post Office Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Merced  
County  
550 W. Main Street  
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney, Modoc  
County  
204 S Court Street, Room 202  
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono  
County  
Post Office Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, Nevada  
County  
201 Commercial Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney, Orange  
County  
401 West Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney, Placer  
County  
10810 Justice Center Drive,  
Ste 240  
Roseville, CA 95678

District Attorney, Plumas  
County  
520 Main Street, Room 404  
Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney, San Benito  
County  
419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor  
Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney, San  
Bernardino County  
303 West Third Street  
San Bernadino, CA 92415

District Attorney, San Diego  
County  
330 West Broadway, Suite  
1300  
San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney, San Mateo  
County  
400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Shasta  
County  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra  
County  
100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor  
Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou  
County  
Post Office Box 986  
Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano  
County  
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Stanislaus  
County  
832 12th Street, Ste 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter  
County  
463 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama  
County  
Post Office Box 519  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity  
County  
Post Office Box 310  
Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne  
County  
423 N. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba  
County  
215 Fifth Street, Suite 152  
Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's  
Office  
City Hall East  
200 N. Main Street, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Francisco, City Attorney  
City Hall, Room 234  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett PL  
San Francisco, CA 94102

San Jose City Attorney's  
Office  
200 East Santa Clara Street,  
16th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

## APPENDIX A

### OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

The following summary has been prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the lead agency for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance on the meaning or application of the law. The reader is directed to the statute and OEHHA implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BASIS FOR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE RELATED TO YOUR BUSINESS, CONTACT THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ON THE NOTICE.

The text of Proposition 65 (Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13) is available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.html>. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 25102 through 27001.<sup>1</sup> These implementing regulations are available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html>.

#### *WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?*

---

<sup>1</sup> All further regulatory references are to sections of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations unless otherwise indicated. The statute, regulations and relevant case law are available on the OEHHA website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>.

**The "Proposition 65 List."** Under Proposition 65, the lead agency (OEHHA) publishes a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. Chemicals are placed on the Proposition 65 list if they are known to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm, such as damage to female or male reproductive systems or to the developing fetus. This list must be updated at least once a year. The current Proposition 65 list of chemicals is available on the OEHHA website at: [http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\\_list/Newlist.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html).

Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under Proposition 65. Businesses that produce, use, release or otherwise engage in activities involving listed chemicals must comply with the following:

**Clear and reasonable warnings.** A business is required to warn a person before "knowingly and intentionally" exposing that person to a listed chemical unless an exemption applies. The warning given must be "clear and reasonable." This means that the warning must: (1) clearly make known that the chemical involved is known to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm; and (2) be given in such a way that it will effectively reach the person before he or she is exposed to that chemical. Some exposures are exempt from the warning requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

**Prohibition from discharges into drinking water.** A business must not knowingly discharge or release a listed chemical into water or onto land where it passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Some discharges are exempt from this requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

#### **DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?**

Yes. You should consult the current version of the statute and regulations (<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>) to determine all applicable exemptions, the most common of which are the following:

**Grace Period.** Proposition 65 warning requirements do not apply until 12 months after the chemical has been listed. The Proposition 65 discharge prohibition does not apply to a discharge or release of a chemical that takes place less than 20 months after the listing of the chemical.

**Governmental agencies and public water utilities.** All agencies of the federal, state or local government, as well as entities operating public water systems, are exempt.

**Businesses with nine or fewer employees.** Neither the warning requirement nor the discharge prohibition applies to a business that employs a total of nine or fewer employees. This includes all employees, not just those present in California.

**Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer.** For chemicals that are listed under Proposition 65 as known to the State to cause cancer, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure can demonstrate that the exposure occurs at a level that poses "no significant risk." This means that the exposure is calculated to result in not more than one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed over a 70-year lifetime. The Proposition 65 regulations identify specific "No Significant Risk Levels" (NSRLs) for many listed carcinogens. Exposures below these levels are exempt from the warning requirement. See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of NSRLs, and Section 25701 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

**Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question.** For chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure can demonstrate that the exposure will produce no observable effect, even at 1,000 times the level in question. In other words, the level of exposure must be below the "no observable effect level" divided by 1,000. This number is known as the Maximum Allowable Dose Level (MADL). See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of MADLs, and Section 25801 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

**Exposures to Naturally Occurring Chemicals in Food.** Certain exposures to chemicals that naturally occur in foods (i.e., that do not result from any known human activity, including activity by someone other than the person causing the exposure) are exempt from the warning requirements of the law. If the chemical is a contaminant<sup>2</sup> it must be reduced to the lowest level feasible. Regulations explaining this exemption can be found in Section 25501.

**Discharges that do not result in a "significant amount" of the listed chemical entering any source of drinking water.** The prohibition from discharges into drinking water does not apply if the discharger is able to demonstrate that a "significant amount" of the listed chemical has not, does not, or will not pass into or probably pass into a source of drinking water, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A "significant amount" means any detectable amount, except an amount that would meet the "no significant risk" level for

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 25501(a)(4).



chemicals that cause cancer or that is 1,000 times below the "no observable effect" level for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity, if an individual were exposed to that amount in drinking water.

#### *HOW IS PROPOSITION 65 ENFORCED?*

Enforcement is carried out through civil lawsuits. These lawsuits may be brought by the Attorney General, any district attorney, or certain city attorneys. Lawsuits may also be brought by private parties acting in the public interest, but only after providing notice of the alleged violation to the Attorney General, the appropriate district attorney and city attorney, and the business accused of the violation. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. The notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in Section 25903 of Title 27 and sections 3100-3103 of Title 11. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an enforcement action within sixty days of the notice.

A business found to be in violation of Proposition 65 is subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. In addition, the business may be ordered by a court to stop committing the violation.

A private party may not file an enforcement action based on certain exposures if the alleged violator meets specific conditions. For the following types of exposures, the Act provides an opportunity for the business to correct the alleged violation:

- An exposure to alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent onsite consumption is permitted by law;
- An exposure to a Proposition 65 listed chemical in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises that is primarily intended for immediate consumption on- or off-premises. This only applies if the chemical was not intentionally added to the food, and was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination;
- An exposure to environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises;
- An exposure to listed chemicals in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking non-commercial vehicles.

If a private party alleges that a violation occurred based on one of the exposures described above, the private party must first provide the alleged violator a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form.

A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included in Appendix B and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at:  
<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>.

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAW OR REGULATIONS...*

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900 or via e-mail at [P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov).

Revised: May 2017

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.7, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.